

**First Meeting of the WOW Human Environment Working Group (HE)**  
**May 27, 2008**  
**DNR GEF 2 Room 413**  
**9:00 (or 9:30) to Noon**

**Attendees-** see also attached list.

Present—Siebert, Ugoretz, Shenot, Nekola, Standen, Donovan, Etter-Hale, Cutright, Green, Temte, Coleman.

Phone—Hall, Montano, Stadelman, Gruber, Westlake

**Meeting goals**

1) Agree on charge, 2) agree on list of sub-groups, 3) establish subgroup leads and members; and 4) set a schedule.

**Introduction**

Siebert began the meeting with explaining that the Study has 4 work teams: legal; engineering/economics (EE); community relations; and human environment (HE). This study is on a tight timeline (report to PSC by end of August) and that it is difficult to evaluate impact without a project on the table. The concept of “framing the issues” was discussed. We will not be able to make recommendations or conclusions, but should be thinking about the range of issues and questions.

**Discussion:**

- WOW-EE group is defining “near-shore” vs. “off-shore” as a way to organize analysis, and perhaps that will help us with organizing our analysis. Michigan is developing prototype projects to help “scope” the issues.
- how to define and address cumulative impacts and secondary impacts
- how to evaluate this technology in context of greater energy planning for the state
- Is “decommissioning” only removal to the lake bottom, or complete removal?  
Engineering/Econ. Group
- these groups can overlap, and thus some members of each work group may need to pay attention to other subgroups’ reports to make sure key topics are addressed
- Cape Wind DEIS and the OCS Alternative Energy Programmatic EIS :  
<http://www.mms.gov/offshore/RenewableEnergy/RenewableEnergyMain.htm>
- Per Lisa Stefanik, there will NOT be a separate webpage on PSC’s site for WOW.

**THE WOW-HE CHARGE: (as edited by discussion)**

*Frame the full range of environmental issues associated with construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of wind turbines and associated collector/transmission lines on the bottoms of Lakes Michigan and Superior.*

### **List of Substantive Areas of Focus for subgroups:**

- a. General bird/bat migration and water bird usage
- b. Fisheries and aquatic resources (including invasive species)
- c. Commercial fishing operations and yields
- d. Lake bottom effects (including disturbance of contaminated sediments, mine wastes, submerged logs, etc.)
- e. Impacts assoc. with the water/land interface (where cables come up on land, etc.)
- f. Boating & Recreation
- g. Human welfare and health issues—flicker, EMF, noise
- h. Visual impacts – from shore, from boats
- i. Cultural and traditional resources
- j. Shipping, Air Traffic (inc. military operations), Communications

### **Subgroups Leads(\*) and members**

#1

Bird/bat migration and water bird usage

Noel Cutright \*, Karen Etter-Hale, Jeff Gosse & other FWS, DNR (ER, WM)

#2

Fisheries and aquatic resources (including invasive species)

Commercial fishing

Lake bottom effects including contaminated sediments, mine wastes, submerged logs

Chuck Ledin/Jo Temte\* (DNR Office of Great Lakes), K. Standen, E. Green

#3

Impacts associated with the water/land interface

Dave Donovan\*, John Shenot, EPA

#4

Boating & Recreation

DNR Roy Zellmer\*, D. Siebert

#5

Human health/welfare issues—flicker, EMF, noise

Visual impacts – from shore, from boats

J. Shenot\*, Ugoretz, DNR Parks, Nat'l Parks Service, N. Cutright (EMF), R. Stadelman

#6

Cultural and traditional resources

Mark Dudzik\*(DNR), M. Matano, L. Hall, (maybe J. Coleman (GLFWIC)

#7

Shipping, Air Traffic (inc. military operations), Communications (radar interference, etc.)

Todd Vesperman\*- contacts with CG, FAA, Air Nat'l Guard, Steve Ugoretz, John Shenot, Chuck Ledin/Jo Temple

### **Role of subgroups**

We agreed that the subgroups will meet to sort out the issues and steps to address the list of questions. Subgroup leaders will bring their reports to the HE group for coordination, and Siebert will represent the HE group in integrating these sections with the other three workgroups sections for the final product.

### **Organizing the subgroup analysis—a proposed outline**

1. what is the concern in general?
2. what data are available for WI, from other states, from Europe?
3. where are the data gaps?
4. what are priorities for data gathering/study?
5. Are there zones of the lakes with greater levels of concern?
2. Are the concerns unique to Lake Michigan or Lake Superior?

### **Next steps:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Type</u>	<u>WOW-HE objectives</u>
6/11	WOW meeting	Siebert status report
6/23	WOW meeting	Siebert status report
7/2	WOW-HE call	conf call 9am-10:30 (subgroups updates)
7/7	WOW meeting	WOW-HE present our draft work
7/22	WOW-HE meeting	Meet GEF 2 Room 613 9am-noon
7/29	WOW meeting	Siebert status report
8/11	WOW meeting	WOW-HE final report is due